

THE SAN JUAN TIMES

V. R. N. GREAVES Editor

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1895.

We very willingly give space in our columns in accordance with the request therein made to a letter received from General Bartlett in his capacity as secretary of the New Mexican bar association. Our own position is certainly rendered none the less tenable by this permission to Mr. Bartlett to attempt controversion of any expression of our opinion, through this paper. Public knowledge of important current events is too absolute, the character of public criticism is too justly exacting to fail for a moment in that nice discrimination that it so properly exercises in all matters of vital import. To the press and the people we leave this case. Our own exposition of the facts referred to is the result of actual and careful research and the article quoted is the outspoken result of that research. We give the letter without criticism.

Last Monday morning an awful crime was expiated on the gallows. Vazpando and Chavez were executed in accordance with the sentence of the executive. This death sentence was the result of the murder of Tomas Martinez last January. A large crowd witnessed the execution. Feliciano Chavez addressed the crowd at length. This execution, we hear, is the first since 1860. Four men are now in Santa Fe under sentence of death. Others are under sentence in different parts of the territory. Justice after a long sleep of years has woke up with a tremendous energy, and murderers and the scaffold are forming a deadly intimacy. This is an awkward state of things for the party that for years has suppressed any desire to mete out punishment to the murderer. This unpleasant proceeding will cause quite a sensation in the breasts of the Knights of the Ruby Hand. If certain of our judges and prosecutors continue on in their present course, there will be absolutely no one left to disgrace our territory, stain its annals with the stain of blood, and blacken its record. From 1860 to 1895—a few private hangings only, and now the chief republican came here shortly after that last hanging and they're beginning to hang 'em again in spite of him. There ought to be an inquiry into the conduct of the democratic court officials, and that pretty quick too, or, by the ghost of Catronism, they'll do their duty and hang some more murderers. Draw up your objections quickly or there is no telling who will be practicing his last appeal to the few that will be in a position to listen.

Holiday times, when our people are preparing for a season of enjoyment, are the occasions when the pocket is dipped into deeply in order that all the pleasures possible may be extracted from the time. This happening no doubt at this thanksgiving brings to mind the old but valuable subject of discussion; namely, the keeping of the public money at home. It is a fact that an enormous amount of money, nearly all of the public cash is sent out of the county. Perhaps it is necessary to send away for a great many requirements and for a number of luxuries; but it seems to us that the argument is strongly in favor of spending at home every cent of actual cash that can be laid out with our own trade establishments. Policy, the policy that invites trade, pushes trade, and tends to local progression, appears to point to this line of economic diplomacy, as being the correct one to pursue. This is not done, and there is no doubt that the amount of money sent away to trade centres back East even, is astonishing. The fact that men won't pay their local debts, do not spend cash at the stores and complain of hard times, does not stop a stream of cash from flowing into the coffers of far off large houses. The argument perhaps is used that the local stores do not keep certain things, and charge high. Pay the local stores the cash that is sent away to enrich people elsewhere, and those stores are enabled to fill their shelves with every necessity, and cash trade enables them to lower their prices. Keep money at home, clear the merchants' books and

we have the surest means of sending round some of the money that now goes away to people who send interior articles, dear, after all, where freight is paid, and it is considered that the money so sent away could be placed at home where it would help us all to live, and pay our debts. This conservation of the public money is more over a means of impelling improvements. Whether of homes, lands, buildings—employ men, wages are paid. This is particularly what we need here, work, and people do not employ labor when they cannot pay. So too ranchmen and others employ in the sale of produce this home store of cash. The home banks should be the clearing houses for local cheques as they are proper storehouses of the local cash. Here the power for self help comes into play. Capital through the medium of the proper manipulator of the public funds, the bank, is placed where it can do the most good. It is loaned to men who improve, trade, and employ men, and that capital is disseminated in time through the district; but where money is stored out of the district it is kept out of the district. Keep as much money at home as we can, and it will help us all.

Gen. Bartlett's Letter.

We append the letter received from General Bartlett for insertion:

SANTA FE, Nov. 21.

Editor San Juan Times.

In the New Mexican of last evening I noticed an article copied from your paper, in which you state editorially that "the bar association of New Mexico is now a Republican organization; it is an extremely pronounced Republican organization, too. As it now stands it is an example of almost exclusive Republicanism in the worst and most regrettable form of the hiring clique, subordinate to the will of its president. Under the guise of a bar association, its official duties will not conceal its real intention, the promotion of Catronism. That this is the fate of the New Mexican bar association, is only too apparent. There is not room in its councils for men who hold opinions contrary to the Catron electing clique," with other statements of a similar nature too long for me to quote. I do not know the source of your information upon which you make the above charges, but assume that you do not desire to wilfully libel a respectable body of men, and, therefore, on their behalf, ask the publication of this letter. There are 70 resident and voting members of this association, 35 or more than one half of whom are Democrats, including the acknowledged leaders of that party; the governor, the solicitor general, the five judges of the supreme court, the member of the national Democratic central committee, the chairman of the territorial central committee, the U. S. attorney, Judge La 1, Judge Waldo, Mess. Field, Childers, and others. There have been 10 presidents of this organization equally divided between the two political parties and from its organization up to the 25th of last month, a Republican has been the treasurer at which time a Democrat was elected to succeed him. You kindly state what in your opinion the object of such an association should be. Article 2 of its constitution states it as follows: "the association is formed to cultivate the science of jurisprudence, to promote reform in the law, to facilitate the administration of justice, to elevate the standard of integrity, honesty and courtesy in the legal profession, to encourage a thorough legal education and to cherish a spirit of brotherhood among the members thereof." This declaration of principles has been lived up to by the association during the 10 years of its existence and the question of politics has never entered into its elections or other business, and has never been mentioned until very recently and then by newspapers and individuals who know nothing of the facts. The annual election of officers was to have taken place at the meeting on the 3d of October, under the custom of the association, the presidency came to the first district, and Mr. Catron was the choice of that district for that office. Three fourths of the members present at that meeting were ready to vote for him, but at his own request, the election was postponed until after the decision of the supreme court on the charges then pending against him could be had; at that time the most prominent Democrats in the party stated that they would cheerfully vote for Mr. Catron for president if these charges were not sustained. The charges were not sustained and he was unanimously elected president of the association. Besides being ut-

terly untrue your article is a poor compliment to the eminent members of the Democratic party who are members of this body, assuming that they with a Democratic majority in membership "will not dare to raise their voices against an existing status that has rendered New Mexico at once a synonym for lawlessness, political wrong doing and legal chicanery." Knowing these gentlemen as I do, and respecting their courage and ability as men and lawyers, I do not anticipate any such grievous calamities as you predict. Trusting that you will give this letter the same publicity which was given to your article on the subject, I am, very truly yours,

EDWARD L. BARTLETT.

Secretary New Mexico Bar Association.

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